

REMARKS

No claims are being added. Claims 1-14 and 19 are being cancelled without prejudice to filing in a later application. Claims 15, 16, 18 and 21 are being amended. Upon entry of this amendment claims 15-18 and 20-27 will be pending.

Claims 1-14 are being cancelled only to expedite prosecution of this application and without prejudice to filing in a later application.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported by claim 19.

The amendment to claim 16 clarifies the invention and corrects a minor grammatical errors.

The amendment to claims 18 and 21 harmonize claim 18 with amended claim 15 and correct minor grammatical errors.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

- Claims 16 and 18-27.

Claim 16, and claims 18-27 depending directly or indirectly therefrom, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. More particularly, the Office Communication asserts that the phrase "etc" renders claim 16 indefinite. Applicant has removed the phrase "etc" from claim 16 so that this rejection of claim 16, and claims 18-27 depending therefrom, is obviated.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

- Claims 15 and 17 over U.S. Patent No. 4,334,854.

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as having every feature and interrelationship anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,334,854 to Graat.

Claim 19 was not indicated to be anticipated by the '854 reference. Applicant has incorporated the features of claim 19 into claim 15. Claim 15, and claim 17 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by the '854 reference for at least this reason.

Appl. No.: 10/538,982

Response to Office communication dated: 11/2/06

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- Claims 15 and 17 over U.S. Patent No. 5,049,063.

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as having each and every feature and interrelationship anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,049,063 to Kishida.

Claim 19 was not indicated to be anticipated by the '854 reference. Applicant has incorporated the features of claim 19 into claim 15. Claim 15, and claim 17 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by the '854 reference for at least this reason.


In summary, Applicants have addressed each of the objections and rejections within the present Office Action. It is believed the application now stands in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant(s)' attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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